Recommendations of Surendra Nath Committee

168. SHRI R.R GOENKA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the five-member group of experts headed by former U.RS.C. Chairman, Surendra Nath to recommend changes in the present system of performance appraisal, promotions etc. in the Central Secretariat Services, has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the highlights of major recommendations made by the group and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major recommendations of the Group relate to the use of performance appraisal for the overall development of the officer and for his/her placement in an area where his/her abilities and potential can be used to best advantage.

Effect of Power Reforms on SEB's Losses

169. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report, Government have disclosed that the cumulative losses of the SEBs has come down by Rs. 5,000 crores in the last two years due to the effect of the reforms introduced;

(b) whether the Electricity Act was a necessary condition for overall improvement and viability of the power industry; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any other plans on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During 2001-02, four States viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan have shown an aggregate cash loss reduction net of subsidy and net of sundry debtor as compared to the year 2000-01 to the tune of Rs. 2138.44 crore.

Sl. No.	State	Cash Loss Reduction
1.	Gujarat	1072.30
2.	Maharashtra	579.74
3.	Haryana	210.98
4.	Rajasthan	275.42
	TOTAL	2138.44

In addition to this, States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have reported reduction in overall losses during the year 2002-03 as compared to previous year.

(b) and (c) The Electricity Act, 2003 is an important instrument of reforms. It provides for measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein. It aims at protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies etc. The new law along with other measures of reforms including Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) are aimed at encouraging the States/Utilities to improve efficiencies.

Delegation of approval power to the State Governments

170. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded powers to State Governments to approve hydro electric and thermal power projects;

(b) if so, whether a large number of State power projects are pending for approval with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, there is no requirement of license for thermal generation. However, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time by Notification.